

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for facilitating financing of new technology, comprising:

maintaining a host computer connected to a global computer network for receiving, over said network from remote computers, information describing purported advances in technology;

accessing said host computer to obtain said information;

performing an evaluation of said advances in technology to determine, for each of said advances, a fixed monetary amount to be contributed in exchange for a unit of equity in a prospective technology development venture to develop the respective one of said advances;

transmitting, over said global computer network to preselected computers, identifications of said advances together with respective values of the determined fixed monetary amounts; and

operating said host computer to receive, over said network from at least some of said preselected computers, respective bids for desired numbers of units of equity in the technology development ventures.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

setting a maximum number of units of equity on which bids may be made for each of said advances;

operating said host computer to automatically tally totals of units of equity bid for each of

said advances; and

for each of said advances, operating said host computer to transmit a bidding termination signal to each of said preselected computers upon the attainment of the respective maximum number of units of equity.

4. (Original) The method defined in claim 3, further comprising operating said host computer to automatically advise said preselected computers, over said global computer network, as to the respective numbers of units of equity subscribed to by each of said preselected computers.

5. (Original) The method defined in claim 3, further comprising operating said host computer to automatically record, for each of said advances, identities of the preselected computers which submitted bids for units of equity in the technology development venture associated with the respective advance, also comprising operating said host computer to record, for each of said advances, numbers of units subscribed to by the bidding ones of said preselected computers.

6. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein said identifications and said respective values are transmitted in encrypted format.

7. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the transmitting of said

identifications and the respective values of the determined fixed monetary amounts is undertaken via said host computer.

8. (Previously Amended) A business method for enhancing investment in new technologies, comprising:

selecting a predetermined number of potential investors;

transmitting, to said potential investors, investment opportunities each comprising an identification of purportedly new technology and a fixed monetary amount to be exchanged in return for a predetermined unit of equity in a prospective technology development venture to develop the respective technology;

receiving bids for units of equity from at least some of said investors, the receiving of said bids for units of equity including operating a host computer to monitor messages arriving over a global computer network;

recording identities of the bidding investors and the numbers of units of equity bid;

automatically tallying total units bid; and

terminating bidding upon attainment of a predetermined number of units bid,

further comprising:

operating said host computer to monitor information arriving over said global computer network, said information describing purported advances in technology; and

selecting said prospective technology development venture from among the purported advances in technology described in the information arriving over said global computer network.

9. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 8 wherein the transmitting of one of said investment opportunities to said potential investors includes operating said host computer to transmit the respective identification and the respective fixed monetary amount over a global computer network to preselected computers each associated with a respective one of said potential investors.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein the automatic tallying of the total units bid includes operating said host computer to add units bid by respective ones of said bidding investors.

13. (Original) The method defined in claim 12 wherein the terminating of said bidding includes operating said host computer to transmit a bidding termination signal to the preselected computers associated with said bidding investors.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 9 wherein the automatic tallying of the total units bid includes operating said host computer to add units bid by respective ones of said bidding investors.